

## **Northeast Montana Weather Summary for the Fall of 2005**

September was warmer and drier than normal. Most locations in northeast Montana had below normal rainfall. Much of the rainfall fell on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month with the arrival of a strong cold front. The heaviest rainfall occurred in Phillips and Valley counties, where a few locations received significant rainfall, which caused the average rainfall for the month to end up well above average. Malta received 3.34 inches of rain on the 10<sup>th</sup> which led to minor street flooding. Several portions of Willow Creek Road south-southwest of Glasgow were washed out when it was estimated that over 2 inches of rain fell in a 90 minute period. Aside from the locally heavy rainfall on the 10<sup>th</sup> the rest of the month featured only sporadic showers. Some areas along and near the North Dakota border observed only trace amount of rainfall all month.

The month got off to a hot start with several locations recording a high temperature of 100 degrees on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The hottest reported was 101 degrees at Glendive, Jordan 43 ENE, Mildred 5N, Scobey 4NW and Wolf Point. After the passage of the strong cold front on the 10<sup>th</sup> temperatures were considerably cooler the remainder of the month with highs mostly in the 60s and 70s, and even a few days with highs in the 50s. The coolest high temperature was observed at Zortman on the 25<sup>th</sup> with a high of only 42. The coldest temperature was observed was 16 on the 28<sup>th</sup> at Scobey 4NW. The month ended on a warm note with many areas in the 80s the last day of the month. Vida 6NE recorded a high of 91 on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

October was a little warmer and wetter than normal across most of northeast Montana. Most locations had above normal precipitation, and much of the significant precipitation occurred during the first ten days of the month. An early season winter storm affected a portion of the area from late in the afternoon of October 4th through early afternoon on the 5th. The storm produced between 6 and 18 inches of heavy wet snow. The heavy snowfall covered an area from extreme eastern Sheridan County and eastern Roosevelt County through eastern McCone, southeast Garfield, and southern Petroleum Counties and points east to the North Dakota Border. The heaviest snow fell in Wibaux and Dawson Counties where more than a foot of snow was observed. The snow occurred at a time when the leaves were still on the trees, and combined with winds of 25 to 35 mph to cause many trees and tree branches to be downed, and knocked out power to many areas. The strong wind also combined with the snow to produce blizzard conditions at times and created snowdrifts that were several feet deep in spots. Interstate 94 from Terry to the North Dakota State Line was closed early on the morning of the 5th and did not reopen until evening. The heaviest snow was observed at 12NW Carlyle with 18 inches. Glendive received a foot of snow. The cooperative observers at Flatwillow 4ENE in Petroleum measured a half a foot of snow.

The month started off very warm on the 1<sup>st</sup> with many areas in the 80s. Brockway 3WSW, Circle, Culbertson, Savage and Wibaux 2E even had highs in the lower 90s. It turned sharply colder on the 2<sup>nd</sup> into the 3<sup>rd</sup> ahead of the storm system that brought snow on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. There were alternating warm and shortly cool spells the remainder of the month. The lowest temperature observed this past October was 9 above observed at Opheim 12 SE on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Brockway 3 WSW on the 30th.

November was wetter and much warmer than normal across most of northeast Montana. A storm system on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month produced 2 to 5 inches of snow across much of the area. Jordan 43 ENE received 6 inches of snow. Precipitation was somewhat sporadic the remainder of the month until the last 5 days of the month when winter arrived in full force and snow fell on and off, and left a few to several inches of snow on the ground by months end.

Temperatures were warmer than normal just about all month. There was a brief arctic outbreak around the middle of the month which sent the mercury below zero in many spots. Opheim 12 SE reported the coldest temperature of the month on the 16<sup>th</sup> with a low of 11 below. A strong cold front crossed the area on the 27<sup>th</sup> and ushered a much colder airmass into the area. By the last day of the month temperatures tumbled below zero with Glasgow reporting a temperature of 6 below zero by late on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup>.